(c) Under this scheme 4,144 VPTs in Gujarat and 4,899 VPTs in Orissa are to be provided. In respect of Uttar Pradesh, all eligible villages have already been provided VPTs.

Expansion of telephone services in rural areas

†108. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the States where all villages have been provided telephones by December, 2005;

(b) the States where telephone facilities in all villages are not available.

(c) the reasons for not providing such facilities; and

(d) whether any time-frame has been fixed for providing such facilities and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.12.2005, all eligible villages in Andaman & Nicobar, Bihar, Haryana, Karnataka, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have already been provided with Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facility. This excludes villages having less than 100 population, lying in thick forest area/naxalite infested area etc.

(b) A statement indicating State-wise number of eligible villages with remain to be provided with telephone facilities in enclosed. (See below).

(c) and (d) In November, 2004, Universal Service Obligation ((USO) Fund entered into agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for providing VPTs in the 66,822 eligible villages. These VPTs are to be provided progressively by November, 2007.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

State-wise Number of Eligible Villages to be Provided with Telephone Facilities as on 31-12-2005

SI. No.	Name of the Service Area	No. of villages to be provided with VPT
1.	Andhra Pradesh	837
2.	Assam	6,565
3.	Jharkhand	1,664
4.	Gujarat	2,179
5.	Himachal Pradesh	768
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1,533
7.	Madhya Pradesh	7,492
8.	Chhattisgarh	4,151
9.	Maharshtra	4,252
10.	North East-I	2,051
11.	North East-ll	1,520
12.	Orissa	4,899
13.	Rajasthan	8,054
14.	Uttaranchal	3,675

Affairs of Department of Telecommunication

†109. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints regarding irregularities and corruption received by the Department of Telecommunication from all over the country are not being disposed off; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by Government to solve this problem?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.